

REMARKS

1. In response to the final Office Action mailed April 6, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. Claims 1-23, 26-30, 35, 36 and 41-46 were last presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-9, 12, 13, 15, 21-23, 27-30, 35, 36 and 42-45 were rejected and claims 5, 10, 11, 14, 16-20, 26, 41 and 46 were objected to. By the foregoing Amendments, claims 1-46 have been canceled and new claims 47-71 have been added. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 47-71 will be pending in this application. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that all outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Formal Drawings

2. Applicant notes that the Examiner indicated on the Office Action Summary that the drawings filed on 30 April 2001 are objected to by the Examiner. The Examiner, however, did not identify any specific objections to the drawings in the Detailed Action section of the Office Action. Also, the informal drawings submitted with the original application on April 30, 2001 were replaced with formal drawings filed on September 27, 2001. The Examiner has provided no indication as to whether the Examiner has examined these new formal drawings.

3. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the informal drawings originally filed in this application, and indicate in the next official communication whether the formal drawings filed on September 27, 2001 have been entered into the record and whether such formal drawings are acceptable.

Art of Record

4. Applicant acknowledges receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Allowed Claims

5. In the Office Action dated September 10, 2004, the Examiner indicated that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the

base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added new claim 47, which recites the substantive subject matter of previously pending claim 1 (i.e., claim 1 prior to entry of the Amendment entered December 10, 2004) along with the limitations of previously pending claim 4. There were no intervening claims. Applicant further notes that amended new claim 47 is directed to subject matter similar to the subject matter of claim 41 (and intervening claim 4), which the Examiner indicated was directed to allowable subject matter in the Office Action dated April 6, 2005. Applicants have modified the language in new claim 47 from the previous language of the claims in order to clean up the language due to the combination of the claims and remove redundant recitations. Previously pending claims 1, 4, and 41 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claim 47 is allowable over the art of record.

6. The Examiner indicated in the Office Actions of September 10, 2004 and April 6, 2005 that claim 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added new independent claim 68, which claims the substantive subject matter of previously pending claim 23 along with the limitations of previously pending claim 26. There were no intervening claims. Applicants have modified the language in new claim 68 from the previous language of the claims in order to clean up the language due to the combination of the claims and remove redundant recitations. Previously pending claims 23 and 26 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claim 68 is in condition for allowance.

7. The Examiner also indicated in the September 10, 2004 Office Action that that claim 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added new independent claim 69, which claims the substantive subject matter of previously pending claim 27 along with the limitations of previously pending claim 30 and previously pending claim 29 (i.e., intervening claim 29). Applicants have modified the language in new claim 69 from the previous language of the claims in order to clean up the language due to the combination of the claims and remove redundant recitations. Previously pending claims 27, 29, and 30 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claim 69 is in condition for allowance.

8. The Examiner indicated in the April 6, 2005 Office Action that claim 46 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has added new independent claim 71, which incorporates the substantive limitations of then-pending claim 46 along with the substantive limitations of intervening claims 36 and 45 and base claim 35. Applicants have modified the language in new claim 71 from the previous language of the claims in order to clean up the language due to the combination of the claims and remove redundant recitations. Previously pending claims 35, 36, 45 and 46 have been canceled. Applicant respectfully submits that new independent claim 71 is in condition for allowance.

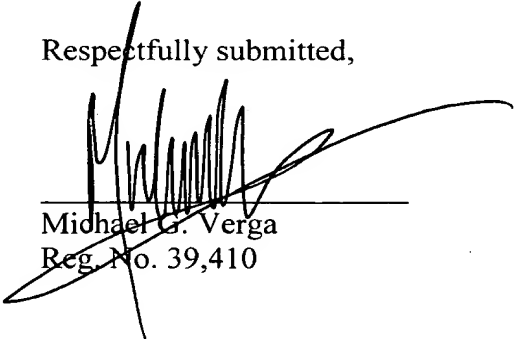
Dependent Claims

9. The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

10. In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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